

WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (part D).

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable: Cache Creek Fire and 4-0 Ranch Barbed wire Fences

2. Name of applicant:

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Cindy Knudsen
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 902-8422

4. Date checklist prepared:

February 3, 2014

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

March – Sept, 2014

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.
No.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.
None.

An Archeology EZ-1 form was completed for the Chief Joseph Fence Rebuild Project.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.
No.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.
An HPA will be required for barbed wire fence crossing Joseph and Green Gulch creeks.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The proposed project will construct 4-strand barbed wire fences in two locations, Cache Creek and the 4-0 Ranch. The fences will be 42" height, with steel posts spaced a maximum of 16 feet apart. Posts will be drilled 16" into rock if they cannot be impact driven in. The fence is in two alignments:

CACHE CREEK

The existing Cache Creek barbed wire fence was burned in a fire. The proposed repairs will remove 3.5 miles of damaged barbed wire fencing and replace it with new barbed wire fence in the same location. The existing barbed wire with wood and steel post fencing will be demolished. The steel posts and wire removed from the site to a local landfill or recycled. The burned wood posts will be stacked at intervals along the fence line to provide habitat. This fence crosses two creeks, Joseph Creek and Green Gulch Creek. This fence is a breakaway fence design with end braces constructed on each side of the creek above OHW that will allow fence wire detachment during high water conditions.

4-0 RANCH FENCE

The 4-0 Ranch fence is a new barbed wire fence to enclose WDFW property lines, approximately 0.5 miles long, and built to the specifications above. The new fence will be 0.45 mile long from the fence corner at the property line. The fence will meet existing cattle guard on each side of the property line access road. No creek crossings are anticipated.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The Cache Creek Fire Fence is located in sections 1, 3, 10, and 11 in Township 6 North, Range 46 East, W.M

Start Fence: 46.013874,-117.029795; End Fence: 46.02334,-116.97803).

From Interstate 90, merge onto WA-26 E toward Othello/Pullman. Turn right onto NE Main St. WA-261/WA-260. Continue to follow WA-261/WA-260. After 6.4 miles turn left onto WA-261 and continue for 29.3 miles. Turn Left onto US 12-E and continue for 50.3 miles. Turn right onto 15th St/WA-128. Turn left onto Fleshman Way. Turn left onto ramp. Turn slight right onto 5th ST. WA-129. Continue to follow WA-129 for 4.6 miles. Stay straight to go onto 1st street. Turn slight left onto Wilson Street. Wilson St. becomes Snake River Road. Continue for 20.7 miles. Turn left to stay on Snake River Road. Portions unpaved. Snake River Road becomes Joseph Creek Road. Continue for 4.8 miles until reaching fence destination at 46.013874,-117.029795.

The 4-0 Ranch fence is located in section 18, Township 7 North, Range 44 East, W.M (46.087832,-117.346601 FOR 0.45 mile from this point, south and east.).

From Interstate 90, merge onto WA-26 E toward Othello/Pullman. Turn right onto NE Main St. WA-261/WA-260. Continue to follow WA-261/WA-260. After 6.4 miles turn left onto WA-261 and continue for 29.3 miles. Turn Left onto US 12-E and continue for 50.3 miles. Turn right onto 15th St/WA-128. Turn left onto Fleshman Way. Turn left onto ramp. Turn slight right onto 5th ST. WA-129. Turn right onto Mill Road. Turn slight left onto W. Mountain Road. Portions unpaved. Mountain Road becomes NF-4304. Portions unpaved. After 0.8 miles turn left. Take the first left onto Hansen Ridge Rd. Portions unpaved. After 2.1 miles arrive at 46.087832,-117.34660.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

69% at the Cache Creek fence site.

35% slope at the 4-0 Ranch Fence.

c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

Generally the soils are sandy silt with rock and bedrock.

Cache Creek site: Laurer soil, Thiessen soil, Bridgewater extremely stony, and some small areas of Matheny silt loam.

4-0 Ranch: Harlow-Getaway complex soils.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

No.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

None.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

No.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

None.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

None.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Short term hand equipment exhaust (gas powered rock drill) and quad exhaust.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

None.

3. Water

a. Surface:

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

At the Cache Creek Fire fence, Joseph Creek and Green Gulch Creek are crossed by the fence.

At the 4-0 Ranch fence, Cougar Creek is nearby, about 600 feet from the fence.

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

This fence crosses two creeks, Joseph Creek and Green Gulch Creek at three places. This fence is a breakaway fence design with end braces constructed on each side of the creek above OHW that will allow fence wire detachment during high water conditions.

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

None.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No.

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

No.

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

No.

b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

No.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

None.

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

There will be no runoff as a result of this fence construction.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

No.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

None.

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
X evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
X shrubs

- X grass
- X pasture
- crop or grain
- wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Shrubs and trees less than 8" diameter may have to be cleared 2' on each side of the fence line at either location.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

No threatened or endangered species are known to be on or near either of the two sites. There are Sumer Steelhead in Joseph Creek, along with native rainbow trout.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

None.

5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds other:

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

The Lower Grand Ronde Summer Steelhead are in Joseph Creek.

c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Rocky Mountain Elk and mule deer, bighorn sheep may be present and migrate through one or both areas. Rio Grande wild turkey and chukar may be in the shrub steppe rangelands throughout the general vicinity of the Cache Creek fence project. Summer steelhead, rainbow trout, smallmouth bass and mountain whitefish migrate through Joseph Creek.

d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

The Cache Creek Fire fence is to keep range cattle off of WDFW property at both sites, thus preserving the vegetation for native ungulates and other species.

6. Energy and natural resources

a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

None.

b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

None.

7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

No.

- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

None.

- 2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

None.

b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

None.

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Construction noise will be from quad engine noise and rock drill noise (similar to a chainsaw). No noise will come from the completed project.

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

None.

8. Land and shoreline use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

The two fencing projects are at the Chief Joseph Wildlife area, where there is habitat for wildlife, and recreation areas for birders, hunters, anglers and hikers.

- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

In the past both sites have been used for range cattle, but that use is being discontinued.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

Cache Creek Fire fence: the existing burned fence.

4-0 Fence: None.

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

The existing burned Cache Creek Fire fence will be demolished. The metal be removed to an approved landfill or recycled.

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Agriculture

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Range / Pasture land

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Rural.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

No.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

None.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

None.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

The proposed project is necessary for the existing and projected land use to managing range cattle from entering WDFW property.

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

None.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

None.

10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Fence posts: 4'-6".

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Long ranging territorial views would see the fence.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

None.

11. Light and glare

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

None.

b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

No.

c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

None.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

None.

12. Recreation

a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

In the Chief Joseph Wildlife Area there are opportunities for hunting, fishing, horseback riding, hiking and bird watching.

b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

None.

13. Historic and cultural preservation

a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

The archeological consultation returned on 12 04 2013 indicated that there were no cultural resources on the 3.5 mile Cache Creek area.

b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

None.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

None.

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

Cache Creek Fire fence: Joseph Creek Road.

4-0 Ranch Fence: Hansen Ridge Road

b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

No. the nearest transit site is unknown.

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

None.

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

No.

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

No.

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

None.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

None.

15. Public services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

No.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

None.

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

None at either fence alignment.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

None.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: *Cynthia Knudsen*

Date Submitted: *2/3/2014*